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4 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**
5 **EASTON TOWN HALL**
6 **14 S HARRISON STREET**
7

8 **November 2, 2020**
9

10 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**
11

12 Mayor Robert C. Willey
13 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
14 Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello
15 Councilmember Ron E. Engle
16 Councilmember Rev. Elmer N. Davis, Jr.
17 Council President Megan M. Cook
18

19 Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch,
20 and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.
21

22 **CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT COOK.**
23

24 At 5:30 p.m., President Cook called the regularly scheduled meeting to order.
25

26 **OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ENGLE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**
27

28 Mr. Engle gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
29

30 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19 AND OCTOBER 27, 2020 MEETINGS.**
31

32 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the October 19
33 and October 27, 2020 meetings were approved with corrections.
34

35 **POLICE BOARD.**
36

37 Chief David Spencer was present and updated on department activities. He discussed personnel and stated
38 they are seven officers short. He discussed recent activities, upcoming specialized training and quarterly
39 statistics.
40

41 Mrs. Cook discussed Chief Spencer's visit to BAMB and stated the local paper had a nice article.
42

43 Mr. Abbatiello thanked Chief Spencer for the department's participation in Matthewstown during Halloween
44 and for their help with the Fire Department's 5K fundraiser.
45

46 Chief Spencer discussed options for retaining officers.
47

48 Rev. Davis asked how many officer recruits are African American. Chief Spencer stated he can't ask that on
49 the application but he knows there were at least one.
50

51 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**
52

53 Mayor Willey stated that he has been notified that the Christmas parade has been canceled due to the
54 pandemic.
55

56 Mayor Willey asked for confirmation for re-appointments for Planning and Zoning Chair, Talbot Bone for an
57 additional five-year appointment and Historic District Commission Chairman Kevin Gibson for an additional
58 three-year appointment.
59

60 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the re-appointments were
61 confirmed.
62

63 Mayor Willey stated he was in receipt of a letter from George Jenkins, Commander; American Legion Post
64 #77 for the waiver of the building permit for the renovation to their Post. He stated it is approximately
65 \$3,000.
66

67 Upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, the waiver of the
68 building permit was approved.
69

70 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

71
72 **LETTER FROM MR. JIM LYON REQUESTING THE USE OF THE LOT BETWEEN AMISH**
73 **MARKET AND VFW FOR ANNUAL LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS TREE SALES.**

74
75 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the request from the Lions
76 Club to use the lot between the Amish Market and VFW for their Annual Lions Club Christmas Tree Sale
77 was approved.

78
79 **ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING STATION.**

80
81 Town Manager Mr. Richardson stated that the Town of Easton and Easton Utilities have completed in
82 collaboration four electrical vehicle charging stations in the parking lot off Brewer's Lane. He stated that
83 there will be no cost to those using the electric charges or the parking spaces but the electric use will be
84 monitored and rates and protocols will be established.

85
86 Mr. Richardson reminded residents that it's leaf collection time. He asked that residents put their leaves
87 where bulk collection is placed and not in the streets and gutters which cause localized flooding.

88
89 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

90
91 **MR. OWEN BAILEY, EASTERN SHORE LAND CONSERVANCY TO PRESENT OPEN**
92 **STREETS CAMPAIGN.**

93
94 Mr. Bailey, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy gave a presentation on their Open Streets Campaign.

95
96 Mr. Bailey stated this campaign came due to the pandemic and the need to create more healthy, outdoor
97 living spaces. He discussed open streets. He stated that the Open Streets Campaign was devised due to there
98 not being enough spaces for the public to walk. He discussed the festival atmosphere in downtown
99 Chestertown due to their Farmer's Market. He stated that Cambridge has seen success with their parklets.
100 Mr. Bailey stated that there are 6000 residents killed by auto accidents per year. He stated that streets are
101 very dangerous for bicyclists and walkers. He stated that the United States is too auto dependent.

102
103 Mr. Bailey talked about how to create open streets and discussed how to conduct a walk audit. He suggested
104 starting small and doing what Easton knows how to do.

105 President Cook stated that Easton shares his concerns to make Easton pedestrian friendly.

106 **5:45 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO COMMENT ON ORDINANCE NO. 755:**

107
108 At 6:17 p.m., President Cook opened the Public Hearing to hear comments on Ordinance No. 755.

109
110 President Cook asked Council for any questions. There were none.

111
112 At 6:18 p.m., President Cook closed the public hearing

113 **ORDINANCE NO. 755, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE**
114 **TOWN OF EASTON TO ACCEPT A PORTION OF GLENWOOD AVENUE FROM TALBOT**
115 **COUNTY."**

116
117 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried, Ordinance No. 755 passed unanimously
118 following a roll call vote.

119
120 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$2,024,282.79.**

121
122 Upon motion by Rev. Davis seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, invoices totaling
123 \$2,024,282.79 were approved.

124
125 **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

126
127 Mr. Scott Messick, IT Director had a comment from a remote viewer regarding the signs at the Farmer's
128 Market. The viewer asked if the metal signs that say "No Parking" can be removed.

129
130 Mr. Richardson stated that the option can be explored. He stated that they serve a purpose.

131
132 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

133
134 Mr. Silverstein offered thanks to everyone that had special programs for the children for Halloween.
135 Mr. Abbatiello stated that it is his understanding that early voting went very smooth here in town. He asked
136 the listening audience to get out in vote.

137 Rev. Davis echoed comments to get out and vote. He reminded everyone to use caution and be safe because
138 deer are everywhere.

139 President Cook asked that everyone get out and vote tomorrow.

140
141 **ADJOURNMENT.**

142
143 At 6:24 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously,
144 President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

145
146 Respectfully submitted,

147
148
149 _____
150 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk

151
152
153
154 **WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS UPDATING RULES OF THE COUNCIL.**

155
156 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**

157
158 Mayor Robert C. Willey
159 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
160 Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello
161 Councilmember Ron E. Engle
162 Councilmember Rev. Elmer N. Davis, Jr.
163 Council President Megan M. Cook

164
165 Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch,
166 and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

167
168 At 6:25 p.m., President Cook called the workshop to order to discuss Rules of the Council.

169
170 The Town Attorney, Mrs. VanEmburch stated there are 55 rules that need to be addressed. The Town
171 Attorney discussed the Topics, the Current Provisions and the Recommendations as outlined in the chart
172 with existing rules, suggested alternatives and recommendations distributed with the memo dated
173 November 2, 2020. She stated that there are rules that she needs direction on, some items that require
174 discussion and other items that need to be added as well as rules that need to be cleaned up. There are
175 also gender references that need to be updated.

176
177 Mr. Engle discussed the necessity to write in something regarding remote meetings.

178
179 **ADJOURN.**

180
181 At 7:21 p.m., President Cook adjourned the workshop.

182
183
184 Respectfully submitted,

185
186
187 _____
188 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk